



April 24, 2015

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Stand Up 4 Transportation Update**

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### **Recommendation**

Receive and file the report on Foothill Transit's Stand Up 4 Transportation event at Cal Poly Pomona.

### **Analysis**

Foothill Transit, in partnership with Cal Poly Pomona, hosted a student summit on transportation in Los Angeles County on Thursday April 9th. This summit was one of over 300 events held nationwide as part of Stand Up 4 Transportation Day -- a national initiative to highlight the need for Congress to adopt a fully funded long term surface transportation authorization bill. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA) spoke to students about government's role in creating our local infrastructure. She was joined by Caltrans District 7 Deputy Director Deborah Wong, College of Environmental Design Dean Michael Woo, Cal Poly Pomona President Soraya Coley and Foothill Transit Executive Board Chair Paula Lantz.

Stand Up 4 Transportation was initiated by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to push the U.S. Congress to pass a long-term transportation spending bill. The current funding bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21), expires on May 31, 2015.

The primary goal of hosting a student event was to expose the next generation of urban planners to some of the unexpected challenges and triumphs of real world transportation planning, funding, and the infrastructure needed to make it work for the region. In addition, it was pivotal in laying the groundwork for a stronger, more collaborative relationship with Cal Poly Pomona. President Soraya Coley stated repeatedly in her opening address that improved transit access for students was important and that working together, we would achieve it.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano illustrated the challenges and successes of federal funding from her singular role as the top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Top students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented four projects for



review – Ras Cannady and David Mach presented *Wheelchair Accessibility and Public Transportation*; Madai Castillo presented *Public Transportation Decisions of Students at Cal Poly Pomona*; Ruben Salazar presented *Orange County Transit Stations and Ridership*; and Jonathan Raspa and Matthew Diemer presented *Bikesharing station utilization in Minneapolis*. These students presented their findings following a brief breakout session that included members of Foothill Transit staff and received feedback from the panel of assembled speakers.

Foothill Transit was also joined by Proterra CEO Ryan Popple, who the day before had announced the California Energy Commission grant award of \$3M. This grant will allow Proterra to open a manufacturing facility in the City of Industry. Paula Lantz included this news in her presentation to students about Foothill Transit and it was well received by students, particularly those in the engineering program. The Foothill Transit Ecoliner was on display outside Building 7 and garnered much positive attention from students. Several asked if the electric buses would ever come to campus.

The positive momentum from this event is being sustained through continued contact and collaboration with various campus officials. Next steps include exploring a Class Pass program for Cal Poly Pomona and investigating service enhancements for students.

Based on the huge amount of interest from multiple agencies and schools, plans for another, expanded student transportation summit or conference are in the works.

Sincerely,

Felicia Friesema  
Director of Marketing and Communications

Doran J. Barnes  
Executive Director